# BY-LAWS

OF

# SAINT OMER COMMANDERY.

# BY-LAWS

OF

# Saint Omer Commandery

OF

# Knights Templars,

AND THE APPENDANT ORDERS.

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REVISED A.D. 1870.

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BOSTON:
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1870.

# CHARTER.

FROM THE EAST OF THE

## Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

M. E. CHARLES H. TITUS, GRAND MASTER.

CHARLES H. TITUS,
*Grand Master.*

WILLIAM W. BAKER,
*Dep. G. Master.*

HENRY BUTLER,
*Grand Generalissimo.*

BENJAMIN DEAN,
*Grand Capt. General.*

Whereas, A Petition has been presented to us, signed by Benjamin Dean, Duncan McBeane Thaxter, Clement Adams Walker, Charles Robbins, Chauncey Page, Harrison Loring, James Birch Robb, Nicholas Alessandro Apollonio, Benjamin Franklin Bayley, Edward Haskell Brainard, Charles Henry White, Benjamin Pope, Francis Henry Underwood, and Luther Harvey Felton, Knights Templars, residing in that part of the City of Boston called South Boston, in the County of Suffolk, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, praying that a Charter may be granted to them, authorizing and empowering them to open and hold an Encampment of Knights Templars, in said South Boston; and, WHEREAS, said Petition was, on this Second day of May, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, duly submitted to, and considered by, our said Grand Encampment, in open Session: and it appearing that the rules and regulations in such case made and provided, have been fully complied with, an order was passed, authorizing the Prayer of the Petition to be granted.

Now Know Ye, That we, the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, reposing special confidence and trust in the fidelity, zeal, and Masonic skill, of the Petitioners aforesaid, and for the purpose of

diffusing the benefits of the Order, and promoting the happiness of the Members, do, by these Presents, constitute and establish the said Petitioners, their associates and successors, into an Encampment of Knights Templars, and the Appendant Orders, by the name of Saint Omer Encampment of Knights Templars, and the Appendant Orders, with full and adequate powers to confer the several Orders of Knight of the Red Cross, Knight Templar, and Knight of Malta, upon such person or persons, possessing the requisite qualifications, as they may think proper; and the said Petitioners, having selected the following Knights for the Officers of said Encampment, we do hereby appoint Sir Benjamin Dean, First Most Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Duncan McBeane Thaxter, First Generalissimo, and Sir Nicholas Alessandro Apollonio, First Captain-General, of said Encampment, with continuance of the aforesaid powers and privileges to said Petitioners, and their successors, forever; said Encampment to take rank and precedence from the 30th day of September, A.D. 1865.

Provided, Nevertheless, That said Officers and Members, and their successors, in said Encampment, pay due respect to our said Grand Encampment, and to the Constitution and Edicts thereof, and in no way remove the Ancient Landmarks of our Order, otherwise this Charter, and all things therein contained, to be void and of no effect.

Given at the City of Boston, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this twenty-eighth day of May, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and of our Order, seven hundred and forty-eight.

Attest,

SOLON THORNTON,

SEAL. *Grand Recorder.*

# BY-LAWS.

## ARTICLE I.

### OF WHOM THE COMMANDERY SHALL CONSIST.

SECTION 1. — The SAINT OMER COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS, and the Appendant Orders, shall consist of an Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, Captain-General, Prelate, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Recorder, Sword-Bearer, Standard-Bearer, Warder, Three Captains of Guards, Sentinel, and as many Knights as from time to time may be admitted, not exceeding in number, at any one time, one hundred.

*Meetings of the Commandery.*

SECT. 2. — The Commandery shall assemble on the third Monday of each month, unless otherwise ordered by vote of the Commandery, and also upon such special occasions as may be ordered by the Commandery, or the Eminent Commander.

*Election of Officers.*

SECT. 3. — The eleven first enumerated officers shall be chosen annually, at the stated meeting in October, by written ballot. The others shall be appointed by the Eminent Commander immediately after his installation.

*Installation of Officers.*

SECT. 4. — The officers shall be installed as soon as may be convenient, and shall hold their offices until their successors are installed.

*Vacancies in Offices.*

SECT. 5. — Should any elective office become vacant from any cause whatever, such vacancy shall be filled at the first stated meeting after such occurrence, provided the usual notice shall have been given in the notification of said meeting, and the proper authority having been obtained.

Any officer appointed by the Eminent Commander who wilfully neglects his duties for three successive meetings, shall be considered as having relinquished his office, and a successor shall be appointed.

## ARTICLE II.

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

*Eminent Commander.*

SECTION 1. — It shall be the duty of the Eminent Commander to convene regular and special meetings of the Commandery, and preside, when present, at all such assemblies; to instruct the officers and members generally in the mysteries of the Order; to dispense justice, reward merit, encourage truth, and diffuse the sublime principles of universal benevolence.



*Generalissimo.*

SECT. 2. — It shall be the duty of the Generalissimo to assist the Eminent Commander in his various duties; to receive his orders on all occasions, and see them duly executed; and, in the absence of the Eminent Commander, to command the Commandery.

*Captain-General.*

SECT. 3. — It shall be the duty of the Captain-General to proclaim the orders of the Eminent Commander, assist him in council, and to preside in the Commandery in the absence of the Commander and Generalissimo.

*Prelate.*

SECT. 4. — The Prelate shall perform the various duties incumbent on Chaplains, and such others as appertain to his office.

*Wardens.*

SECT. 5. — The Wardens shall prepare the candidate, accompany him through the ceremonies, and introduce him into the Commandery.

*Treasurer.*

SECT. 6. — The Treasurer shall receive the revenues from the Recorder, and pay all demands against the Commandery, when duly approved by the Standing Committee; he shall keep a just account of all moneys he receives and pays; and deliver to his successor in office, within thirty days after the election, all the property of the Commandery remaining in his possession.

*Recorder.*

SECT. 7. — The Recorder shall issue notifications to the members of all meetings, specifying in writing the names, places of abode, and occupation of all candidates; and, when directed by the Eminent Commander, the special business of the meeting; shall observe with attention the transactions of the Commandery, and keep a true record of the same; collect the revenue and pay it to the Treasurer, at least once in three months; shall serve the chairman of all committees with a copy of the vote by which they were appointed, and attend their sessions if required. At the annual meeting he shall exhibit a fair account of all moneys by him received and paid, and deliver to his successor in office, within thirty days after the election, all the property of the Commandery in his possession.

*Sword-Bearer.*

SECT. 8. — The Sword-Bearer shall assist in protecting the Banners of the Order; watch all signals from the Eminent Commander, and see his orders duly executed.

*Standard-Bearer.*

SECT. 9. — The Standard-Bearer shall display, support, and protect the Banners of the Order.

*Warder.*

SECT. 10. — The Warder shall see the Commandery duly guarded, and the Sentinels at their respective posts; shall communicate to the Eminent Commander all petitions and requests for admission and favors, and return his answers accordingly.



*Guards.*

SECT. 11. — The Guards shall challenge with spirit, examine with caution, admonish with candor, relieve with alacrity, protect with fidelity, and defend with valor, their respective posts.

*Sentinel.*

SECT. 12. — The Sentinel shall guard with vigilance the avenues to the asylum; give the alarm when necessary, and discharge such other duties as may be required of him by the Eminent Commander.

## ARTICLE III.

### CANDIDATES FOR ORDERS.

SECTION 1. — Every Candidate for the Orders shall make application in writing, enclosing the fee of fifty dollars, accompanied by a certificate from three Royal Arch Masons that he has regularly received the Degree of Royal Arch Mason, and is of good moral character and respectability. He shall stand proposed from one meeting to another, not less than fourteen days intervening (unless in case of emergency a dispensation be obtained), and before a ballot shall be taken he shall satisfy a Committee respecting his knowledge and proficiency in the preceding Degrees. He must receive the unanimous vote of the members present, in order to be admitted. If he is not accepted, the fee shall be returned.

*Proposing and Balloting for Candidates.*

SECT. 2. — The names of all Candidates for the Orders shall be submitted to the Council, and be by them approved before they are proposed to the Commandery. The question "Shall a Committee be appointed?" upon such applicant, having been put and decided in the affirmative, the committee shall be appointed, and, through the Recorder, immediately notified of their duty. The balloting shall be strictly secret. In case one black ball only is cast, a second balloting may be ordered; but a third shall not be allowed. When a candidate is rejected, no member shall question another as to his vote, declare his own, or complain of the result. A failure to appear and receive the Orders, within a year after a favorable ballot, shall constitute a forfeiture of the right thereto, and to any money paid.

*No Claim to Membership.*

SECT. 3. — The fact of receiving the Orders in the Commandery shall confer no claim to be admitted to membership.

## ARTICLE IV.

### PROPOSITION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. — Any member wishing to propose a candidate for membership, shall first communicate his name to the Council, who may, if they think proper, announce the name to the Commandery, (none but members being present,) and order a vote on the following question,



viz: — "Is it the pleasure of the Commandery that Sir A —— B —— be proposed for membership?" This vote shall be taken by ballot, and if it is unanimously in the affirmative, the applicant may be proposed and a committee appointed in the same manner as is provided for Candidates for the Orders, and not otherwise. If he is rejected, no record shall be made of the result.

*Balloting for Membership.*

SECT. 2. — Candidates for membership shall be balloted for at stated meetings only, after having been proposed one month, and their names being inserted on the notifications for the meeting at which the balloting takes place. The unanimous vote of the members present shall be necessary for their admission; and no one shall be entitled to the privileges of a member until he has signed the By-Laws and paid the admission fee.

*Admission of Honorary Members.*

SECT. 3. — Knights Templars who have been eminently useful to the Institution, or to this Commandery in particular, may be admitted Honorary Members, by being proposed and balloted for at the annual meeting, in the same manner as is provided for full membership, and if made from members of this Commandery, said Honorary Members shall lose none of the rights and privileges they enjoyed as active members, but shall not be subject to quarterages and assessments.

*Forfeiture of Membership.*

SECT. 4. — Any member, Honorary Members excepted, who absents himself for six successive regular

meetings, or who neglects to pay his quarterages or assessments for one year, shall forfeit his membership, unless a satisfactory excuse be offered; provided, also, three months notice shall have been given by the Recorder to such delinquent.

*Neglect to Sign By-Laws.*

SECT. 5. — Any Knight Templar who may be admitted a member, and who shall neglect to sign the By-Laws or to pay the admission fee, within three months after his admission, and notice thereof by the Recorder, must submit to the forms of being re-proposed, and again balloted for, unless a satisfactory excuse be offered.

*Discharge from Membership.*

SECT. 6. — Should any member wilfully violate the principles of his profession, or reveal the confidential transactions of the Commandery to any person, not a member, he may be discharged at any regular meeting by a majority of the members present; he having received at least ten days previous notice of such intention to discharge him.

## ARTICLE V.

*Standing Committees of the Commandery.*

SECTION 1. — The Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain-General shall be a Standing Committee, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer and Recorder, and report at the annual meeting; to examine all bills against the Commandery, and if approved, two at least of the Committee shall sign them before payment by the Treasurer; they shall also examine and decide all excuses for breach of these By-Laws, and transact generally the financial affairs of the Commandery, unless it is otherwise specially ordered.



*Reports of Committees, and their Expenses.*

SECT. 2. — All Committees, except the Standing Committee, shall report their doings at the next meeting after their appointment. All necessary expenses of Committees shall be defrayed by the Commandery, and also the expenses of the Council in representing the Commandery in the Grand Body.

## ARTICLE VI.

*Uniform and Regalia.*

SECTION 1. — The personal dress of the Knights shall be a black coat, black pantaloons, black cravat and boots, together with such regalia as may from to time be ordered.

*Expenditures and Assessments.*

SECT. 2. — No alteration of the regalia shall be made, no extra assessments laid, or vote taken for any public installation, procession or parade, except at meetings regularly called, with the business inserted in the notification for said meeting.

## ARTICLE VII.

### GENERAL RULES.

SECTION 1. — The Commandery shall open precisely at the hour appointed, and shall be dismissed at or before ten o'clock, unless urgent business requires a later attendance.

SECT. 2. — The orders of the Eminent Commander shall be implicitly obeyed. He shall be addressed by the Knights standing, uncovered, and by the title of "Eminent Commander."

SECT. 3. — All debates shall be determined by the vote of a majority of the members present, unless otherwise specially ordered. The Eminent Commander always having the casting vote.

SECT. 4. — The members shall address each other, when on duty, by the title "Sir Knight," and shall on all occasions observe the most kind and courteous behavior towards each other.

SECT. 5. — Should disputes unhappily arise among the members, it shall be the duty of the Eminent Commander, upon application of the party aggrieved, or of any three of the members, to convene the Commandery, when a careful, patient, and impartial investigation of the cause of the complaint shall be made, and the decision thereupon of a majority of the Knights present shall be conclusive.



## ARTICLE VIII.

### ALTERATION OR REPEAL OF BY-LAWS.

SECTION 1. — These By-Laws shall not be altered or repealed, unless they have been reported upon in writing at a previous meeting, by a committee chosen for that purpose, nor then without the consent of two-thirds of the members present. Such report must be made, and action thereon had, at some regular meeting of the Commandery, due notice thereof being given by the Recorder in the notification of said meeting.

## ARTICLE IX.

### CHARTER MEMBERS EXEMPT FROM ASSESSMENTS.

SECTION 1. — The Charter members of this Commandery, in consideration of their arduous labors and contributions in establishing this Commandery, are hereby forever exempted from all regular assessments.

# TABLE OF FEES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Every Candidate for the Orders shall pay . . . . . | $50.00 |
| Every Candidate for Membership, if Knighted in this Commandery, shall pay, on admission . . . . | 25.00 |
| All other Candidates . . . . . | 50.00 |
| Every Member, except Honorary and others hereafter named, shall pay quarterages, (semi-annually in advance) per annum . . . . . | 5.00 |
| The Recorder shall be allowed and paid for every meeting he attends . . . . . | 3.00 |
| The Sentinel shall be paid for every meeting he attends and for delivering notices the usual postage. | 2.00 |
| For each Diploma there shall be paid . . . . . | 2.00 |

The foregoing By-Laws are approved.

BENJ. DEAN,
*Grand Commander.*

BOSTON, JUNE 16, 1870.



# LIST OF MEMBERS
OF
# SAINT OMER COMMANDERY,
## FROM ITS ORGANIZATION TO MAY 1, 1870,
### WITH DATES OF ADMISSION.

* Deceased. † Withdrawn. § Charter Members. || Honorary Members.

| | |
|---|---|
| Apollonio, Nicholas A. . . . . | § |
| Armstrong, David . . . . . | June 9, 1866† |
| Aspinwall, William . . . . . | June 15, 1868 |
| Bayley, Benjamin F. . . . . | § |
| Brainard, Edward H. . . . . | § |
| Baxter, George, Jr. . . . . | June 9, 1866 |
| Baker, Benjamin F. . . . . | May 6, 1867 |
| Bond, George H. . . . . | Oct. 19, 1868 |
| Cate, Earl M. . . . . | June 3, 1867 |
| Conley, Samuel B. . . . . | Sept. 21, 1868 |
| Campbell, Isaac T. . . . . | Sept. 21, 1868 |
| Dean, Benjamin . . . . . | § |
| Drake, Henry A. . . . . | June 9, 1866* |
| Emery, Hiram . . . . . | Sept. 2, 1867 |
| Elms, Joseph D. . . . . | May 18, 1868 |
| Felton, Luther H. . . . . | § |
| Farnham, John C. . . . . | Sept. 2, 1867 |
| Fiske, Joshua B. . . . . | Feb. 3, 1868† |
| Greenleaf, William H. . . . . | Sept. 2, 1867 |
| Hawes, Walter E. . . . . | June 9, 1866 |
| Hersey, Charles H. . . . . | Jan. 7, 1867 |
| Hersey, Francis C. . . . . | Sept. 2, 1867 |
| Jones, Frank E. . . . . | June 9, 1866 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Johnston, George H. | Feb. | 4, | 1867 |
| James, George B. | Sept. | 2, | 1867 |
| Johnson, Robert | Oct. | 7, | 1867 |
| James, Elisha F. | May | 18, | 1868 |
| James, Charles L. | June | 15, | 1868 |
| Jenney, Bernard | Sept. | 20, | 1869 |
| Kennard, John F. | May | 6, | 1867 |
| Kingman, George W. | Mar. | 15, | 1869 |
| Lee, Daniel | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Leavitt, Thomas | Sept. | 2, | 1867 |
| Munson, Silas H. | May | 6, | 1867 |
| Melcher, William K. | May | 6, | 1867 |
| Manning, Thomas | Sept. | 21, | 1868 |
| McLellan, Charles W. | Sept. | 21, | 1868 |
| Neilson, William | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Neale, George F. | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Nickerson, Winslow | Sept. | 21, | 1868 |
| Page, Chauncey | | | § |
| Pope, Benjamin | | | § |
| Potter, Robert K. | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Pettingill, Ubert L. | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Pope, Richard | Sept. | 21, | 1868 |
| Robbins, Charles | | | § |
| Robb, James B. | | | § |
| Rockwood, William D. | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Sharland, Joseph B. | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Swett, Hubbard W. | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Stone, Dexter S. | May | 18, | 1868 |
| Spofford, Charles | May | 18, | 1868 |
| Stearns, Charles A. | Sept. | 20, | 1869 |
| Sutton, William | April | 19, | 1869‖ |
| Thaxter, Duncan McB. | | | § |
| Tinkham, Jeremiah | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Torrey, Calvin | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Thayer, Samuel J. F. | May | 6, | 1867 |
| Tillson, Orrin | May | 18, | 1868 |
| Underwood, Francis H. | | | § |
| Vance, Samuel | Mar. | 15, | 1869 |
| Walker, Clement A. | | | § |



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| White, Charles H. | | | § |
| Wilson, Henry W. | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Winsor, Joseph | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Wilber, William B. | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Wright, Albert J. | June | 9, | 1866 |
| Worster, John E. | Sept. | 2, | 1867 |

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*Knights who have received the Orders in this Commandery, and not taken Membership.*

William H. Chessman.
Parker C. Burbank.
Jabez Frederick.
R. Montgomery Field.
Micah W. Hodgdon.
Dudley Pray.
Andrew G. Smith.
Thomas Parsons.
Thomas Hill.
Samuel L. Thorndike.
George L. Andrews.
Charles F. Karcher.
Robert W. McNinch.
Freeborn Adams, Jr.
Manning C. Davy.
Isaac H. Robbins.
Joshua B. Smith.
S. A. Stackpole.

# Organization of St. Omer Commandery,

FOR 1870.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sir Charles H. White | Eminent Commander. |
| Sir Benjamin Pope | Generalissimo. |
| Sir Joseph Winsor | Captain-General. |
| Sir Edward H. Brainard | Prelate. |
| Sir George H. Johnston | Senior Warden. |
| Sir George W. Kingman | Junior Warden. |
| Sir Walter E. Hawes | Treasurer. |
| Sir Francis C. Hersey | Recorder. |
| Sir William B. Wilber | Sword-Bearer. |
| Sir John F. Kennard | Standard-Bearer. |
| Sir Charles L. James | Warder. |
| Sir Jeremiah Tinkham | Third Guard. |
| Sir John C. Farnham | Second Guard. |
| Sir Charles W. McLellan | First Guard. |
| Sir William D. Rockwood | Sentinel. |
| Sir H. G. Barrows | Organist. |



# OFFICERS.

OFFICERS UNDER DISPENSATION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sir Benjamin Dean | Eminent Commander. |
| Sir Duncan McB. Thaxter | Generalissimo. |
| Sir Nicholas A. Apollonio | Captain-General. |
| Sir Clement A. Walker | Prelate. |
| Sir Charles Robbins | Senior Warden. |
| Sir Benjamin Pope | Junior Warden. |
| Sir James B. Robb | Treasurer. |
| Sir Francis H. Underwood | Recorder. |
| Sir Benjamin F. Bayley | Sword-Bearer. |
| Sir Chauncey Page | Standard-Bearer. |
| Sir Edward H. Brainard | Warder. |
| Sir Luther H. Felton | Third Guard. |
| Sir Frederick G. Walbridge | Second Guard. |
| Sir Charles H. White | First Guard. |
| Sir William D. Rockwood | Sentinel. |

1866 AND 1867.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sir Benjamin Dean | Eminent Commander. |
| Sir Duncan McB. Thaxter | Generalissimo. |
| Sir Nicholas A. Apollonio | Captain-General. |
| Sir Clement A. Walker | Prelate. |
| Sir Charles H. White | Senior Warden. |
| Sir Benjamin Pope | Junior Warden. |
| Sir James B. Robb, | Treasurer. |
| Sir Hubbard W. Swett | Recorder. |
| Sir George Baxter, Jr. | Sword-Bearer. |
| Sir David Armstrong | Standard-Bearer. |
| Sir Joseph Winsor | Warder. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Sir William Neilson | Third Guard. |
| Sir George F. Neale | Second Guard. |
| Sir Frank E. Jones | First Guard. |
| Sir Joseph B. Sharland | Organist. |
| Sir William D. Rockwood | Sentinel. |

1867 AND 1868.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sir Duncan McB. Thaxter | Eminent Commander. |
| Sir Nicholas A. Apollonio | Generalissimo. |
| Sir Charles H. White | Captain-General. |
| Sir Clement A. Walker | Prelate. |
| Sir Benjamin Pope | Senior Warden. |
| Sir Joseph Winsor | Junior Warden. |
| Sir Walter E. Hawes | Treasurer. |
| Sir Francis C. Hersey | Recorder. |
| Sir William B. Wilber | Sword-Bearer. |
| Sir John F. Kennard | Standard-Bearer. |
| Sir George Baxter, Jr. | Warder. |
| Sir Earl M. Cate | Third Guard. |
| Sir Jeremiah Tinkham | Second Guard. |
| Sir Samuel J. F. Thayer | First Guard. |
| Sir Joseph B. Sharland | Organist. |
| Sir William D. Rockwood | Sentinel. |

1868 AND 1869.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sir Duncan McB. Thaxter | Eminent Commander. |
| Sir Nicholas A. Apollonio | Generalissimo. |
| Sir Charles H. White | Captain-General. |
| Sir Edward H. Brainard | Prelate. |
| Sir George H. Johnston | Senior Warden. |
| Sir Joseph Winsor | Junior Warden. |
| Sir Walter E. Hawes | Treasurer. |
| Sir Francis C. Hersey | Recorder. |
| Sir William B. Wilber | Sword-Bearer. |
| Sir John F. Kennard | Standard-Bearer. |
| Sir George Baxter, Jr. | Warder. |
| Sir Jeremiah Tinkham | Third Guard. |



| | |
|---|---|
| Sir John E. Worster | Second Guard. |
| Sir Richard Pope | First Guard. |
| Sir Joseph B. Sharland | Organist. |
| Sir William D. Rockwood | Sentinel. |

1869 AND 1870.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sir Nicholas A. Apollonio | Eminent Commander. |
| Sir Charles H. White | Generalissimo. |
| Sir Benjamin Pope | Captain-General. |
| Sir Edward H. Brainard | Prelate. |
| Sir George H. Johnston | Senior Warden. |
| Sir Joseph Winsor | Junior Warden. |
| Sir Walter E. Hawes | Treasurer. |
| Sir Francis C. Hersey | Recorder. |
| Sir William B. Wilber | Sword Bearer. |
| Sir John F. Kennard | Standard Bearer. |
| Sir Charles L. James | Warder. |
| Sir Jeremiah Tinkham | Third Guard. |
| Sir John C. Farnham | Second Guard. |
| Sir Charles W. McLellan | First Guard. |
| Sir H. G. Barrows | Organist. |
| Sir William D. Rockwood | Sentinel. |

# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

# Grand Commandery of Knights Templars,

AND THE APPENDANT ORDERS,

*OF MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.*

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## ARTICLE I. — GRAND COMMANDERY.

### STYLE AND TITLE.

SECTION 1. — The style and title of this Body is "The Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island."

### JURISDICTION.

SECT. 2. — Its jurisdiction extends over the territorial limits of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

### POWERS.

SECT. 3. — In it alone is vested the right and duty, which it cannot delegate, to superintend and govern all Commanderies of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders within this jurisdiction.

It has exclusive power to grant Dispensations and Warrants for forming and opening Commanderies of the above Orders, and to extend or revoke the same.

It enacts statutes and issues edicts, and amends and repeals the same.



It censures, suspends, and erases Councils and Commanderies, and holds any of their members amenable for any violation or neglect of its statutes and edicts.

It has supreme authority, throughout this jurisdiction, in all matters pertaining to Templar Masonry, subject only to the ancient landmarks of the Order, and the Grand Encampment of the United States.

### MEMBERS.

SECT. 4. — It shall consist of a Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain-General, Grand Prelate, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Sword-Bearer, Grand Standard-Bearer, Grand Warder, Grand Captain of the Guards, Grand Sentinel, — *ex-officiis;* of all Past Grand Commanders, and Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, and Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Generalissimos, and Past Grand Captains-General of this Body; of the Commanders, Generalissimos, and Captains-General, for the time being, of all subordinate Commanderies under this jurisdiction; and of all Past Commanders of such subordinates, so long as they are members of Commanderies, under this jurisdiction, in good standing.

The above-named Present and Past Officers (the Grand Sentinel excepted), and Representatives and Past Commanders of subordinate Commanderies, are the only voters in this Grand Commandery.

A permanent member has but one vote in his own right as such, and but two in any case.

### ATTENDANCE AND PROXIES.

SECT. 5. — Each of the officers named in the preceding section, save and except Past Commanders and the Grand Sentinel, being unable to attend the Assemblies in person, shall have the power to appoint a proxy, who shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of his constituent, except that of taking his rank in Grand Commandery.

Such proxy must, at the time of his service, be a member of *the same subordinate Commandery as his principal*, and a Templar of not less than three years' standing, and must present a properly authenticated certificate of his appointment.

### OFFICERS, ELECTION, AND TITLES.

SECT. 6. — The first nine officers shall be chosen by written ballot; the others, by appointment of the Grand Commander.

No Knight is eligible to any office in this Grand Commandery, unless he be a member of some subordinate Commandery, and a Templar of not less than three years' standing.

The officers thus chosen shall serve until their successors have been installed. The title of the Grand Commander is "RIGHT EMINENT"; that of Deputy Grand Commander, "VERY EMINENT"; of the other Grand Officers, "EMINENT."

### ASSEMBLIES.

SECT. 7. — This Grand Commandery shall assemble in October and May of each year, at such time and place as the presiding officer shall appoint, — in October, for the election of officers and the transaction of the annual business; and in May, for the exemplification of the work and ritual, the transaction of such special business as shall be presented, and the consideration of such matters as pertain to the general good of the Order.

Special Assemblies may be held at the pleasure of the presiding officer; but no business shall be transacted at a Special Meeting save that which was specified in the original notice.

### PREROGATIVES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECT. 8. — The Grand Commander shall have a watchful supervision over all the subordinate Commanderies, and see that all the constitutional enactments, rules, and edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and of this Grand Commandery, are duly and promptly obeyed.

The Grand Commander and Deputy Grand Commander, at their pleasure, visit and preside in any subordinate Commandery, and give such instruction and direction in the work and ritual as the good of the Order may require; always conforming to the



ancient landmarks and this Grand Constitution. The Deputy Grand Commander, in the event of the death, removal or physical incompetency of his superior, shall act as the Grand Commander.

It is the duty of the Grand Commander, in person or by one of his Council, to visit and examine every subordinate Commandery under Dispensation once in three months, and every chartered Commandery annually, and cause a report of the same to be made at the Annual Assembly of this Grand Commandery.

It is the duty of the Grand Treasurer to report to the Grand Commander or presiding officer, whenever and as often as there shall be a surplus of one hundred dollars in the treasury, not subject to any appropriation already made; and to invest the same by and with the advice of the first two officers.

It is the duty of the Grand Recorder, annually, to communicate to the Grand Recorders of all State Grand Commanderies, and to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, a list of all the Grand Officers of this Grand Commandery, and all such other matters as the Right Eminent Grand Commander shall deem to be for the general good of the Order, or useful for their information.

The other duties of the above officers, and the duties of the other officers, are such as are traditionally appropriate to their offices, and such as may be required of them by this Grand Commandery and the Grand Commander.

### NEW COMMANDERIES.

SECT. 9. — Dispensations for forming and opening new Commanderies, upon the petition of not less than nine Knights Templars residing within the jurisdiction, may be issued by the Grand Commander during recess of the Grand Commandery only. Dispensations so issued to be of force only until the succeeding stated Assembly of this Body, unless continued by vote thereof; *provided, however*, that no Dispensation shall be issued without the consent of the Commandery nearest to the place where the new one is to be located; and, if in that town or city there is more than one, the consent of all shall be obtained.

Charters shall be granted by vote of the Grand Commandery alone, and at a Stated Assembly.

A Commandery formed within this jurisdiction, without a Dispensation or Charter, as above provided, shall be deemed illegal; and all communication between Commanderies under this jurisdiction, and the members of such illegal ones, is hereby strictly forbidden.

FEES FOR DISPENSATION AND CHARTERS.

SECT. 10. — The fees for a Dispensation are forty dollars to the Grand Commandery, and three dollars to the Grand Recorder; and, for a charter, sixty dollars to the Grand Commandery, and seven dollars to the Grand Recorder; and, for a Charter without a previous Dispensation, one hundred dollars to the Grand Commandery, and ten dollars to the Grand Recorder.

In no case shall a Dispensation or Charter be issued until the required fees shall have been paid to the Grand Treasurer.

GRAND FUND.

SECT. 11. — One tenth of the unincumbered funds of this Body, at its Annual Assembly in October, 1859, and one tenth of its present and future income, shall be set apart, and shall form a "Grand Fund"; the interest only of which shall be expended, for charitable and other purposes, at the discretion of this Grand Body; *provided, however*, that no portion of the interest shall be expended for any purpose whatever, until the principal shall amount to five thousand dollars. The unexpended income of the fund, and all donations to the same, shall be annually added to the principal. Until this fund shall amount to five thousand dollars, it shall not be in knightly faith to diminish the rate of increase as provided above.

The Grand Commander, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Recorder, shall be a Committee, to be styled "The Grand Fund Committee," whose duty it shall be to attend to the safe and profitable investment of this fund. They shall also make a detailed report, in writing, of its condition at each and every Annual Assembly in October. A failure so to do shall render them ineligible to re-election for the ensuing year.



## ARTICLE II. — SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. — Every subordinate Commandery shall consist of a Commander, Generalissimo, Captain-General, Prelate, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Recorder, Sword-Bearer, Standard-Bearer, and Warder, and such other officers and members as may be found convenient.

ASSEMBLIES.

SECT. 2. — Every subordinate Commandery shall assemble at least quarterly for improvement and business.

JURISDICTION.

SECT. 3. — Every subordinate Commandery shall have exclusive jurisdiction in receiving applications for, and conferring the Orders of Knighthood over, all territory lying nearer the usual travelled routes to its place of meeting than to that of any other Commandery; *provided*, that any Commandery may waive this jurisdiction in favor of any person desirous to apply to any other Commandery.

OFFICERS: ELECTION AND DUTIES.

SECT. 4. — The first eight officers shall be elected by written ballot: the others may be appointed by the Commander at the pleasure of the Commandery. The officers thus chosen shall serve until their successors shall have been installed. The title of the Commander is "EMINENT." The Commander of a subordinate Commandery has it in special charge to see that the By-Laws of his Commandery and this Grand Constitution are duly observed; that accurate records are kept, and just accounts rendered; that regular returns to this Grand Commandery are made annually; and that the annual dues are promptly paid. He calls special Assemblies of his Commandery at pleasure; and it is his duty, with his Generalissimo and Captain-General, to attend all Assemblies of this Grand Commandery.

The duties of the other officers are such as are traditionally appropriate, and such as may be assigned them by the Commandery or the Commander.

OBLIGATION.

SECT. 5. — The officers of every subordinate Commandery before installation, and every candidate upon admission, shall take the following obligation, viz: "I, —— ——, do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America."

ANNUAL RETURNS.

SECT. 6. — Every subordinate Commandery shall make a return to the Grand Recorder of this Grand Commandery, on or before the tenth day of October, annually, of the roll of its officers and members, of all candidates for the Orders, accepted or rejected; and shall pay to this Grand Commandery five dollars for every Knight created, and an annual fee of three dollars.

ORDERS, FEES, AND RULE OF SUCCESSION.

SECT. 7. — No subordinate Commandery shall confer the Orders of Knighthood for a less sum than thirty dollars, nor on any person who shall not have regularly received the several degrees of E.A., F.C., M.M., M.M.M., P.M., M.E.M., and R.A.M.: and no candidate for the Orders shall be balloted for, unless he shall have stood proposed at least fourteen days, unless a Dispensation therefor shall be obtained from the R.E. Grand Commander. The Orders shall be conferred in the following succession, viz: — 1. KNIGHT OF THE RED CROSS; 2. KNIGHT TEMPLAR; 3. KNIGHT OF MALTA.

SOJOURNERS.

SECT. 8. — It is not regular for a subordinate Commandery to confer the Orders of Knighthood upon any sojourner from any State or place in which there is a Commandery regularly



established, except by consent of the Commandery having jurisdiction. Any Commandery which violates this regulation shall be subject to knightly discipline, and be required to pay, on demand, to the Commandery having jurisdiction, the amount of fees received.

Any Commandery may, however, take cognizance of the conduct of sojourning Knights.

QUESTIONS.

SECT. 9. — In every Assembly of Knights, all questions, except of the admission of candidates and members, and of matters specially reserved by the By-Laws, shall be decided by a majority vote, — the presiding officer, if a member, being entitled to one vote, and, in case of a tie, to the casting vote.

COSTUME.

SECT. 10. — The costume of this Grand Commandery and its subordinates is such as is, from time to time, approved by this Grand Body.

OPENING AND CLOSING.

SECT. 11. — All Councils and Commanderies should be opened and closed in due and ancient form; and Commanderies with devotion.

AMENDMENTS.

SECT. 12. — This Grand Constitution may be altered or amended by vote of two-thirds of the members present at any Annual Assembly in October.